Department of State TELEGRAM

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ACTION ARA-16

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USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
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UNCLAS SAN SALVADOR 4159

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

ROME FOR VATICAN OFFICE

E. O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: SNUM, PINS, PINT, ES
SUBJECT: HOMILY FOR MAY 31

1. SUMMARY: DURING HIS MAY 31 SERMON BISHOP RIVERA Y DAMAS CONDEMNED THE ONGOING VIOLENCE IN THE COUNTRY. HE USED THREE CASES OF EITHER KIDNAPPED OR DETAINED PEOPLE AS EXAMPLES OF THAT VIOLENCE. RIVERA APPEALED TO THE AUTHORITIES TO ADMIT TO HAVING CAPTURED AN INDIVIDUAL WHEN RELATIVES INQUIRE. THE BISHOP AFFIRMED THAT CHURCH NEWSPAPER ORIENTACION AND RADIO YSAX WOULD SOON BE, RESPECTIVELY, IN PRINT AND ON THE AIR AGAIN. RIVERA LIMITED OFFICIAL SPOKESMEN OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC TO FOUR; HE DID NOT INCLUDE THE LEGAL AID BRANCH, SOCORRO JURIDICO. END SUMMARY.

2. APOSTOLIC ADMINISTRATOR ARTURO RIVERA Y DAMAS GAVE THE MAY 31 HOMILY AT SAN SALVADOR'S METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL. SOME OF HIS COMMENTS FOLLOW.

3. RIVERA REFLCTED ON THE "POLITICAL SITUATION" OF THE COUNTRY. HE SPOKE ON TH CONTINUING RAMPANT VIOLENCE. THE BISHOP DECRIED THE "CONFUSED STATE OF VIOLENCE" WHICH PERMITTED THE TAKING OF PEOPLE FROM THEIR HOMES AND THEIR SUBSEQUENT DISCOVERY, DEAD AND LYING ON SOME ISOLATED ROADWAY.

4. THE BISHOP CITED THREE CASES OF KIDNAPPED OR DETAINED INDIVIDUALS. RIVERA SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE TEOFILO SIMAN KIDNAPPING. HE NOTED THAT THE ARMED GUERRILLA GROUPS HAD DENIED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CRIME. RIVERA WONDERED ABOUT THE FUTURE COURSE OF THE COUNTRY IF HONEST MEN COULD NOT GO ABOUT THEIR DAILY AFFAIRS WITHOUT FEARING FOR THEIR LIVES, OR BECOMING THE VICTIMS OF BANDITRY OR TERROR. THE BISHOP NOTED THE ABSENCE OF ANY "EFFECTIVE AUTHORITY" TO DEAL WITH THIS UNFETTERED VIOLENCE. RIVERA THEN APPEALED FOR THE RELEASE OF SIMAN. SIMILARLY, HE DIRECTED AN APPEAL TO TH "GUERRILLA GROUPS" TO RELEASE DR. DYMAS FUNES HARTMANN.

5. BISHOP RIVERA WENT ON TO ASK THE AUTHORITIES TO ADMIT TO HOLDING PEOPLE WHOM THEY HAVE CAPTURED, PARTICULARLY TO RELATIVES. OTHERWISE, SAID RIVERA, THE DETENTION IS IN REALITY A KIDNAPPING. THE BISHOP CITED THE CASE OF DR.

SABINO ALAS. RIVERA SAID THAT HE HAD CALLED A "HIGH OFFICIAL" IN ORDER TO ASK ABOUT THE CAPTURE OF SABINO. TH OFFICIAL, SAID RIVERA, CHECKED WITH THE VARIOUS ARMED FORCES, ALL OF WHICH DENIED HOLDING THE MAN IN QUESTION. THE FOLLOWING DAY THE DOCTOR WAS RELEASED "IN LAMENTABLE PHYSICAL AND MORAL CONDITIONS." RIVERA WENT ON TO LIST TH NAMES OF VARIOUS PEOPLE WHO HAD EITHR BEEN INCARCERATED OR HAD DISAPPEARED AND ASKED THAT THEIR CASES BE CLARIFIED.

6. RIVERA ALSO DECRIED THE DESTRUCTION OF VARIOUS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA. BUT HE SAW AS A HOPEFUL SIGN THE PERMISSION FOR RADIO NEWS BROADCASTERS TO RESUME THEIR ACTIVITIES. ALSO, SAID RIVERA, CHURCH NEWSPAPER ORIENTACION AND RADIO STATION YSAX WOULD RECOMMENCE THEIR FUNCTIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. RIVERA SAID THAT LEGAL REQUIREMENT FOR YSAX TO BEGIN BROADCASTING HAD BEEN MET AND NOW ONLY TECHNICAL PROBLEMS REMAIN.

7. FINALLY, RIVERA LIMITED THE NUMBER OF AUTHORIZED SPOKESMEN FOR THE ARCHBISHOPRIC TO FOUR -- HIMSELF, THE TWO VICAR GENERALS, AND THE SOCIAL COMMUNICATION SECRETARYSHIP. ALL OTHER DEPENDENCIES OR ORGANIZATIONS LINKED TO THE ARCHBISHOPRIC ARE NOT OFFICIAL VOICES OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC, RIVERA SAID. THE ARCHBISHOPRIC'S LEGAL AID BRANCH, SOCORRO JURIDICO, WAS POINTEDLY NOT INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF AUTHORIZED VOICES.

8. PLEASE NOTE THAT HOMILY CONTAINS REFERENCES TO TWO INDIVIDUALS - SIMAN AND FUNES - IN WHOM ARA HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST.
HINTON

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